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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 30 October 2000 from the Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Enclosed please find the text of note verbale No. HC-44-00, dated 30 October 2000, from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, responding to the latter's notes verbales of 3 and 25 August and 9 and 10 October 2000, regarding the issuance of United States visas.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and note verbale as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(*Signed*) Robert C. **Moller**
Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

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Annex to the letter dated 30 October 2000 from the Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's notes verbales 345 of 3 August, 458 of 25 August, 533 of 9 October and 534 of 10 October 2000, wishes to comment on the issuance of visas to members of the United Nations diplomatic community.

As the host country to the United Nations, the United States endeavours to issue visas to representatives of Members, and others as defined in article IV, section 11, of the United Nations Headquarters Agreement on a timely basis.

In most cases, the United States can accommodate visa requests within 15 working days of receipt of the completed visa application. However, there are some few circumstances where the review of the application for a visa requires additional time before a final decision is reached. Alternatively, there are circumstances where the request must be expedited in order to facilitate the entry of a representative to attend a meeting or an event not scheduled well in advance, for example, an emergency meeting of the General Assembly.

If an application is filed to attend a meeting or event which requires travel in advance of the normal 15-day processing period, the Government of Cuba should include a written request for the expedited handling of the visa application, noting the reason for the request to expedite. Such a request will help facilitate entry into the United States on a timely basis.

While there is no absolute time limit for the issuance of visas, the United States makes every effort to ensure that visas are issued in a reasonable period of time.